

### **REMARKS**

Applicants cancel claims 2 and 23, amend claims 1, 4, 6, and 21 such that claims 1, 3-22, and 24-72 are pending in this application.

Applicants initially note with appreciation that the Examiner has allowed claims 36-72 and has identified allowable subject matter in claims 2, 4-6, 9-18, 20, 23, and 27-35.

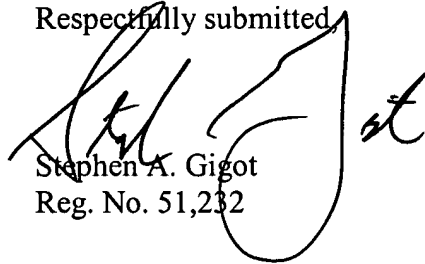
The Examiner rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctively claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner rejects claim 1 for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for “the upstream sheet feeding equipment” and rejects claim 4 for failing to provide antecedent basis for “the plurality of conveyor belts”. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection of claim 1 and submit that line 2 of claim 1 provides proper antecedent basis by reciting “upstream sheet feeding equipment”. Regarding the rejection of claim 4, Applicants amend claim 4 to depend from claim 3 thereby providing proper antecedent basis for the plurality of conveyor belts. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to remove the §112 rejections of claims 1 and 4.

The Examiner states that claims 2, 4-6, 9-18 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112. Accordingly, objected-to claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form as allowable independent claim 1. Claims 3-20 depend from allowable independent claim 1 and are therefore also allowable for these and other reasons.

The Examiner also states that claims 23 and 27-35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, objected-to claim 23 has been rewritten in independent form as allowable independent claim 21. Claims 22 and 24-35 depend from allowable independent claim 21 and are therefore also allowable for these and other reasons.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney should the Examiner determine that such action would facilitate the prosecution and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. A. Gigot', is written over the typed name and registration number.

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